

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action mailed on January 12, 2006. All objections and rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-11, 13-16, 18-22 are currently pending.

Claims 18-22 are added to better claim the invention.

Objections to Drawings

At paragraph 2 of the Office Action, figures 2-4 should be designated by a legend such as "prior art" because only that which is old is illustrated.

Applicant has corrected the drawings to overcome the objection.

Claims Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

At paragraphs 5-6 of the Office Action, claims 1-2, 5, 7, 9-11, 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Crayford, US Patent No. 6,269,098, issued on July 31, 2001, hereinafter Crayford.

The present invention, as set forth in representative claim 1 comprises in part:

1. A method of operating a switch for frames in a computer network, comprising:
receiving a frame (the received frame) at a port of said switch, said received frame containing one or more indicia of frame type designation;

deriving a virtual local area network (derived VLAN) value in response to said one or more indicia of frame type designation, said derived VLAN internal to said switch;

accessing a forwarding data base with said derived VLAN value to determine a destination address; and,

forwarding, in response to said derived VLAN value, said received frame to an output port for transmission to the destination.

By way of background, Crayford describes a network switch for switching frames across multiple ports. Crayford reads a VLAN tag from a frame received by the switch, and routes the frame according to the VLAN tag. (Col. 8, lines 23-48).

Applicant respectfully urges that Crayford does not show Applicant's claimed novel *deriving a virtual local area network (derived VLAN) value in response to said one or more indicia of frame type designation, said derived VLAN internal to said switch*. In further detail, the *derived VLAN* allows users to create arbitrary VLAN domains through the ports based on characteristics such as protocol type and/or subnet values, and associated with each input port of the switch. In contrast, Crayford uses a VLAN index-to-identifier (ID) table for mapping 16-bit VLAN IDs into 5-bit VLAN indexes. There is no description in Crayford of *deriving a virtual local area network (derived VLAN) value in response to said one or more indicia of frame type designation*.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully urges that the Crayford patent is legally precluded from anticipating the claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. §102 because of the absence from the Crayford patent of Applicant's *deriving a virtual local area network (derived VLAN) value in response to said one or more indicia of frame type designation, said derived VLAN internal to said switch*.

Claims Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

At paragraphs 7-8 of the Office Action, claims 3-4, 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Crayford, in view of Shani, US Patent No. 6,023,563, hereinafter Shani.

Applicant respectfully notes that claims 3-4, 6, and 8 are dependent claims that depend from independent claims which are believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, claims 3-4, 6, and 8 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

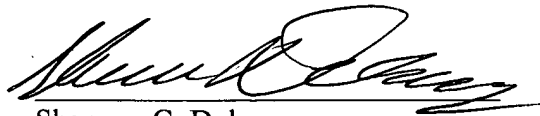
All independent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

All dependent claims are believed to be dependent from allowable independent claims, and therefore in condition for allowance.

Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Please charge any additional fee occasioned by this paper to our Deposit Account No. 03-1237.

Respectfully submitted,



Shannen C. Delaney
Reg. No. 51,605
CESARI AND MCKENNA, LLP
88 Black Falcon Avenue
Boston, MA 02210-2414
(617) 951-2500